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- 16. The method of claim 14, wherein the cooling medium is directed at the container portion while the container is held in contact with a mold cavity.
- 17. The method of claim 14, wherein the expanding step includes stretching with a stretch rod, and wherein the stretch rod includes at least one port for directing the cooling medium at the container portion.
- 18. The method of claim 14, wherein a partial exhaust is provided for promoting flow of the cooling medium.
- 19. The method of claim 18, wherein directing the cooling medium and applying the partial exhaust is followed by applying a rapid exhaust.
- 20. The method of claim 14, wherein the directing step reduces the time for cooling the blow-molded container in the blow mold.
- 21. The method of claim 14, wherein a high pressure source supplies the cooling medium.
- 22. The method of claim 14, wherein a high pressure source supplies an expansion medium for the expanding step and the cooling medium for the directing step.
- 23. The method of claim 14, wherein a low pressure source supplies an expansion medium during a preliminary expansion step.
- 24. The method of claim, 14, wherein a slow exhaust is provided to promote flow of the cooling medium and a rapid exhaust is provided for exhausting an expansion medium.
- 25. The method of 14, wherein the cooling medium is directed at the container portion from within the blow-molded container.

- 26. The method of claim 14, wherein the expanding step includes stretching the preform with a stretch rod and injecting an expansion medium to form the blow-molded container and the directing step includes holding the container in contact with a mold cavity and injecting the cooling medium through at least one port in the stretch rod.
- 27. The method of claim 26, wherein the directing step further includes providing a partial exhaust to promote flow of the cooling medium at the container portion while maintaining the container in contact with the mold cavity.
- 28. The method of claim 27, wherein the step of applying the cooling medium and partial exhaust is followed by applying a rapid exhaust prior to removal of the container from the mold cavity.
- 29. A stretch rod for a blow mold apparatus, the stretch rod including at least one port located for directing a cooling medium against a portion of a blow-molded container formed about a handle in the blow mold.
- 30. The apparatus of claim 29, further including a source for supplying the cooling medium to the stretch rod.
- 31. The apparatus of claim 29, further including a high pressure source for supplying an expansion medium to the stretch rod.
- 32. The apparatus of claim 29, further including an exhaust for promoting flow of the cooling medium in the blow mold.
- 33. The apparatus of claim 32, wherein the exhaust includes a slow exhaust for promoting flow of the cooling medium and a rapid exhaust for exhausting an expansion medium.